CONVERSATION CAFÉ: STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Chris Chiles
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November 8, 2023
“We coordinate voices at a state and federal level, strengthen the role and authority of regional councils, and collaborate, coordinate and solve problems in the areas of transportation, environment and land use planning within the framework of state policy.”

“We work to streamline statewide services at the regional level, leverage federal resources, and serve as stewards of Ohio’s limited resources.”

OARC includes 24 agencies

Serve more than 1,500 municipalities, villages, townships, and counties

Represent over 10 million residents
Not just for MPOs/transportation planning...

6 members are AreaWide Water Quality Management Planning Agencies
  - Designated under the Clean Water Act and certified by the Governor

MPOs, RTPOs, Areawides, Planning Commissions, Regional Councils, COGs

Bi-State and Tri-State agencies
STRENGTHS

In academics, it is called plagiarism. In business, it is called best practices.

- Meet bimonthly (always in person before Covid)
- Mix of urban and rural organizations
  - Leadership from both types
  - 3 C’s (and D)
- OARC Members also active in National Associations
  - AMPO, NARC, NADO Conferences in Ohio over last 2 years
  - OARC supports through sponsorship and attendance
GUEST SPEAKERS

- Dr. Jack Marchbanks, Ohio Department of Transportation Director
  - Also in attendance: Sara Downs, Chief Financial Officer; Tim McDonald, Deputy Director of Planning; Laurie Leffler, FHWA Ohio Division Administrator
- Dorinda Byers, Deputy Director of Operations, Ohio Auditor of State
- Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Peter Voderberg, Chief of Broadband Ohio
- Greg Vergamini, ODOT Deputy Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Mr. Brendan Kelley, Director of Drive Electric Ohio, Clean Fuels Ohio
- Ms. Hallie Neuhaus, Policy & Government Affairs Manager, Clean Fuels Ohio
- Jerry Rouch, Chief, Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance, Ohio EPA
- Nichole Lawhorn, Jeff Payton, and Andrea Stevenson, ODOT Office of Local Programs, Township Stimulus Program
- Derrick James, Midwest Director of Government Affairs, Amtrak
COMMITTEES – STAFF INVOLVEMENT

- Areawide Water Quality Committee (Chair: OKI)
- Communications Committee (Chair: Buckeye Hills)
- Finance Committee (Chair: MORPC)
- *Policy Committee (Chair: OVRDC)
- Transportation Committee (Chair: OVRDC)
  - Working Groups
    - Statewide Safety – MVRPC
    - Statewide Transportation Innovation Council – MORPC
    - Freight – OMEGA
    - Transit – OMEGA / MVRPC
    - Rideshare/Air Quality – NOACA
“Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.”
-- President Dwight D. Eisenhower
Government Advantage Group for Consultant/Legislative Services
- Represent similar associations; bring opportunities
- Fix Our Roads (FOR) Ohio

Advocate for legislation
- Remote Meeting Authority*
- HB 62 Transportation Bill
- Allow councils of governments the statutory authority to use county prosecutors as legal counsel
- Distracted Driving Initiative
- Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program

Participation on statewide committees
- Grace Gallucci, NOACA, on External Advisory Committee for ODOT’s Alternative Revenue Mechanisms Study
2022 OARC CANDIDATES FORUM

Friday, August 26, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
401 North High Street | Columbus, OH 43215

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. | Registration and Networking with Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. | Morning Opening Remarks
Governor Mike DeWine provides remarks with moderated discussion

10:15 a.m. | Break

10:30 a.m. | Panel Discussion
Planning for a More Prosperous Ohio

11:15 a.m. | Networking

11:30 a.m. | Lunch & Keynote Discussion
Ohio’s Future: Policy Insights on Economic Development & Infrastructure

12:45 p.m. | Break

1:00 p.m. | Afternoon Opening Remarks
Former Mayor Nan Whaley provides remarks with moderated discussion

2:15 p.m. | Program Closes
Alternate between Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland
- OARC helps as sponsor
- 2023 in Cincinnati, 2024 in Cleveland
- 2023 Keynotes from Ohio Department of Transportation Director Dr. Jack Marchbanks and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray
THANK YOU!

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